

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IGA-01 CU-04 AGR-10 COME-00 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-10

HEW-06 OES-05 /133 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6869

UNCLAS DACCA 2564

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EAID, EAGR, BG

SUBJECT : PRESS REPORT CONCERNING US FY 76 AID LEVEL

DACCA MAY 25 NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY DATE-
LINED WASHINGTON MAY 24 BASED ON CABLED REPORTS BY
EASTERN NEWS AGENCY CHIEF GOLAM RASUL MALLICK, WHO
IN US ON IVP GRANT:

"TOPE OFFICIAL OF THE US AID INDIATED SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASE IN FOOD AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR THE NEXT
FISCAL YEAR, REPORTS ENA.

"THEY HINTED FOOD AID TO BANGLADESH MIGHT REACH ONE
MILLION TONS, BESIDES AN INCREASE IN TITLE II GRANTS
UNDER PL 480.

"IT MAY BE RECALLED HERE THAT THE US FOOD AID TO
BANGLADESH HAS ALREADY REACHED 850,000 TONS. IT IS
INDICATED THAT IN VIES OF THE FOOD SHORTAGE IN BANGLA-
DESH US GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE STEADY SUPPLY OF FOOD

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"REAFFIRMING STEADY AND UNHINDERED FLOW OF PRESENT

AID, THE OFFICIALS SAID REFIXATION OF THE PAR VALUE OF BANGLADESH CURRENCY IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

"IT WILL GO A LONG WAY IN REVITALIZING THE ECONOMY OF THE NEW NATION. THEY THINK THE PREVIOUS RATE OF EXCHANGE INADEQUATE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND SLOW DECISION MAKING HAVE SO LONG BEEN DIRECTLY STANDING IN THE WAY OF INCREASING THE VOLUME OF AID FLOW IN THE PAST. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HELP CREATE CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH.

"HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES OF THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND SAID BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT'S MEASURE TO REFIX PER VALUE OF ITS CURRENCY WOULD IMPROVE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE NEW NATION AND INDUCE DONOR COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THE VOLUME OF THEIR AID TO BANGLADESH.

"THE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMES OF THE NATION AND READINESS TO STEP UP THE FLOW OF AID SUBSTANTIALLY FOR DIFFERENT PROJECTS.

"THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT BANGLADESH MAY RECEIVE GREATER VOLUME OF AID FOR PROJECTS IN THE FIELDS OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FAMILY PLANNING. IT IS HINTED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT EXPECTED FRESH PROPOSAL OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THESE FIELDS."
BOSTER

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